

Dear Caroline,

12 July 2020

Thank you for agreeing to “drop a line to RSF as [you] support the arguments set out in their letter.” Though you do not make it clear whether this is private or public support?

Meanwhile, please let's not misconstrue what I have asked you to do, nor what I have written.

I have not made "claims" that you "have denied this case [the Julian Assange 'show trial' in London] is a problem".

Nor have I disputed “the work [you] have done more generally on the principles that underpin this case.”

On the contrary I have noted and reflected back to you (in a short paragraph of your own words ready to be copied and pasted again below) the concerns about Julian Assange's incarceration, that you have raised privately with me. And asked you to spend only a few moments to share those words specifically and publicly via several other public statements and campaigns from notable organisations, which I have shared with you, (in particular: RSF; Doctors4Assange; International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute; and the multi-party Australian Parliamentary Friends of the Bring Julian Assange Home Group).

You say “it's important to be steered by those who are working closely with Julian Assange”. As such then, the organisations that have spoken out, from the current Wikileaks editor to doctors, lawyers and journalists and parliamentarians (listed above) are by your definition, close enough: they have spoken out publicly.

Thus there really is no ill defined lack of “closeness” as excuse to not “be steered” into now publicly and openly supporting their public statements. They have led. Simply I am asking you to now follow.

But for you to then suggest that this amounts to me wanting you to “campaign extensively on each and every one [of the] huge number of issues cross my desk every day” is a further obfuscating misconstruction of my request. And compounding this with a claim of being too busy with competing issues in light of the international gravity of the patent threat to freedom of the press barely deserves my attention rebuffing.

For example, even today on the back of the Assange 'show trial' we witness yet more ever rapid erosions of press freedoms. The British ambassador to the US has launched an official complaint over the arrest of an Independent journalist covering protests in Seattle. The arrest sparked international condemnation, amid concern over police action against more than 60 other journalists covering George Floyd protests in the US and Donald Trump's anti-media rhetoric.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/seattle-journalist-arrested-andrew-buncombe-us-state-department-complaint-white-house-a9614541.html>

So in fact the first (not the last) thing I want you to do, contrary to your reluctance, is precisely to “weigh in when there are sensitive legal and diplomatic negotiations underway”.

Yesterday was barely in time. Tomorrow will be too late.

I'm not asking you to comment on the legal details. So you or I or anybody "not being privy to the full details" is irrelevant. For example, Clare Daly, an Irish MEP who chaired the European Parliament special event on the Assange case before the February 2020 hearing, is close enough to have said:

"This is the most important press freedom case of a generation. Its implications for civil liberties and fundamental rights are far-reaching and serious."

<https://bridgesforfreedom.media/25-parliamentarians-to-monitor-julian-assange-extradition-hearing-in-february/>

Julian's treatment by UK and US authorities is described as "torture" by the United Nations.

So I am asking you to speak out publicly against the indisputable fact of the open torture on UK mainland of its victim and the attendant surrounding debilitating conditions of this specific 'show trial' in London.

Please stop hiding behind "restrictions on what can be raised in Parliament in relation to this case" in support of a far right populist Tory Government hell bent on unconditional support of US global policy to destroy free speech and ignore international law by "strictly following the line that it is a matter for the courts at present and wrong for the legislature to interfere".

Julian is in solitary confinement 24hours a day at Belmarsh maximum security prison, where he is denied access to his lawyers, to court proceedings facing 175 years in a US jail for exposing systematic war crimes by the US and its allies including the UK, and where he is forced to be exposed to the Covid-19 virus to which he has severe life threatening vulnerabilities, thereby evidencing a clear intent by the UK authorities to let him die in prison as soon as possible.

The man is being tortured under your watch. This should be sufficient "detail" for you to "weigh in" now.

In this instance if it were not the London Parliament, but some other jurisdiction, public silence from the legislature would be quickly constructed by all fair minded people as silent complicity with an authoritarian right wing fascist regime.

Julian already knew in 2012 that the UK and US authorities wanted to capture and torture him for exposing their war crimes. Such as the 'collateral murder' video showing civilians and a Reuters journalist in an urban setting in Iraq being gunned down and murdered in cold blood by spineless laughing US military shits, safe in their attack helicopter with no subsequent legal action against them.

Julian's fear of torture in retaliation for exposing US war crimes has since been adequately confirmed, following being granted political asylum in London's Ecuadorian embassy in 2012. Against all international asylum laws and conventions and treaties, he was forcefully 'extracted' last April, on 'show trial' grounds ridiculously claiming he's skipped bail in the UK, on charges that never materialised from Sweden, despite the now leader of the opposition's corrupt interferences with the Swedish legal process, a process together with the US extradition he personally initiated as DPP under the New Labour government.

So, now (in addition to supporting RSF) I am asking you to openly send at least those same few words of yours (copied below) to the Australian parliamentary Campaign, set-up and led by elected representatives, the multi-party Australian Parliamentary Friends of the Bring Julian Assange Home Group to secure Julian Assange's immediate release and repatriation to Australia; to Doctors4Assange; and to the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute.

Thank you,

Regards,

Natasha

PRESS RELEASE [draft]

Julian Assange is a political prisoner. He should not be put at risk of extradition to the United States.

I sincerely hope that the Judge will find that Julian Assange's safety and human rights cannot be guaranteed in the United States.

It is clear that he should be afforded his full rights here in the UK. ends
ends